DEPUTY PRESIDENT : There is a request made to me that a new member may be sworn in. This certainly is not the time for that. The rules are different ; but considering the statement made by the President this morning that time will be available to this House for the discussion of the Report and considering also the fact that the Government is interested in moving all supplementary demands before this House and also to make it possible for the House to do the maximum amount of work, as a special case, I am prepared to allow Mr. C. O. Madhavan to be sworn in—

NEW MEMBER SWORN IN.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan, Excise Commissioner, took the oath and signed the Rolls.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, a point of order. Is the member in order in swearing before the other member resigns?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Regarding Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's point, I delayed giving a ruling because swearing is a very solemn act. Now that it is finished I am prepared to say that I find only nine members on the official side without Mr. Madhavan. Mr. Madhavan is the tenth member.

I would now call upon Mr. Truscott to make his motion.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (*contd*)— PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,17,450 for—

(1) the purchase of a dredger for the Alleppey Port	...	Rs. 1,10,000
(2) the appointment of a special staff for the preparation of a priority list of roads	...	Rs. 7,000
(3) the appointment of an additional draftsman in the Chief Engineer's Office	...	Rs. 450

Sir, it is essential that we should keep the Port of Alleppey open ; and to do that we want to have a dredger. During the last two years we spent nearly half a lakh of rupees on hand-dredging. Now it has come to that hand-dredging cannot be done ; and so in consultation with the Principal Port Officer it was decided on a type of dredger to be purchased ; and as the question is very urgent I have brought the supplementary demand for the approval of the House. It is well known that the Alleppey Port is what has been called a small gold mine to Travancore. Once the traders find that the facilities at that Port are not what they require, they will go elsewhere and then they would not come back again, however well preserved the Port might then be.

Sir, shall I speak on the various items separately or shall I speak on the three items together ?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : All of them together, but to be voted upon separately.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Well, Sir, I have not anything more to say about the Alleppey Port. In the last meeting of the Assembly, you heard what Mr. Karunakaran said, and I leave it to the House to grant the demand.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether any expert was consulted with regard to the type of the machine to be purchased as well as the advisability of doing that?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*): Yes, the Principal Port Officer has reported that similar dredgers were used in other parts.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Does the Chief Engineer think that it will not be like the crane purchased for the Arukutty Chowkey?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The substance of the question is whether the Government hopes to work the dredger all right.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Yes, Sir.

Regarding the Special Officer for the preparation of a priority list of roads, honourable members will have noticed that roughly 99 per cent of the interpellations that the Chief Engineer answers on behalf of Government in this House is for roads and it is very difficult, or rather impossible, for the Chief Engineer or Government to say whether such and such a road is necessary or not. A lot depends upon the ability of the members who come forward with a request. Some members can make a very strong case for a weak road.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Has not the Chief Engineer got a priority list of roads prepared by the Road Boards?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): There is no priority list. We had a Road Board some years ago and they prepared a tremendous list of roads that they would like to construct.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether it is not possible for the Chief Engineer to find out the priority of the roads from the list that is already with the Government or in the Chief Engineer's Office?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You want the Chief Engineer to do what Napolean did with the help of maps.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It is not possible, Sir, for the Chief Engineer to determine priority with the list now with him.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether the special staff is to be appointed merely to go through the papers and proposals in the Chief Engineer's Office or to tour round the country and find out the actual needs?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*); The Special Officer will be requested to consult local needs in every case and the proposal is that he should prepare a priority list and the approximate cost of each road.

RAO SAHIB DR. N KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Is it the proposal of the member that priority list will be prepared for each Division?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No; the list will be for the whole State.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Along with this, may I know whether proposals for new roads will also be taken into account?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes, Sir.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I know whether grants have been made for the new roads?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No, grants will be asked for from year to year according to the necessity. But we do want this list; As I said, if I get an estimate sanctioned, it may be likely that the work would not be done for some years. At the present time we get requests for roads. They go to Government and Government ask me to prepare an estimate; estimate is prepared and by the time funds are available and the road is taken up for construction, a long time passes which means that we have to prepare a new estimate altogether, the original estimates having become out-of-date and not workable. Tremendous amount of time is thus wasted in the Division Office and Sub-Division Office in preparing estimates.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): Why was it that this proposal was not included in the last Budget Session?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It was put in the Budget and omitted why, I cannot say.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): What is the number of roads in the existing list now available in the Chief Engineer's Office?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I have no priority list.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Not from the priority list, but from the list of roads now in the Chief Engineer's Office.

MR. G. B E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I cannot say.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): At least approximately.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I cannot say, even approximately.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know the approximate cost that would be necessary for the construction of all the roads ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): In my office, I have sanctioned estimates now for roads aggregating to Rs. 2¼ lakhs but held up for want of funds. There is also a considerable number of roads asked for by members but not estimated for as yet.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In which Committee was this demand made ? I would like to know from the member which was the Committee that brought the proposal.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads Buildings and Irrigation*): I believe it was a Committe in which the member was a member.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it is not to shut out the demand of the members of this House for opening roads that this proposal is brought out now ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question is not very material.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I am afraid that Mr. Nair —

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I said that the question is not very material.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What would be the approximate cost of these roads of which a priority list is to be prepared ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I have no idea at all. It is not proposed to consider that question now. The roads will be merely arranged according to priority, and a list of them prepared. That is all.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): I want to get an approximate cost of these roads, because, in spite of the priority in the list, the order may have to be changed according to the funds made available.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Thanu Pillai is putting the cart before the horse. No financier can say how much is to be spent on roads in any future year. That cannot be ascertained now.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Has the Chief Engineer ascertained that there is no priority list in his office, prepared as per the recommendation of the Road Board ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigaton*): The Road Board never made any recommendation about priority. Obviously, therefore, there is no such list in my office.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): How long is that list to be in force ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): As long as there are roads in the list awaiting construction.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): That was why I put the question as to the approximate cost of the roads which have to be arranged according to priority.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Thanu Pillai can only put a question. He is now explaining his former question. I cannot allow that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : In view of what the Chief Engineer has stated, may I have an approximate idea of the funds for the utilisation of which the officer now proposed is going to prepare a priority list of works ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : All that he will be asked to do is to prepare a complete list of roads, for the whole State, according to their relative importance and to give them an order, in the list, which should be followed by the Department in actual working.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it going to be a question of the comparative or relative importance merely of the roads now in demand, or also of the roads which may hereafter be demanded?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Most certainly, the roads that may be demanded hereafter will also be introduced into the list according to their importance or the urgency of their need. But, I may say that, for any new road to be put over roads already in the list, a very good case will have to be made out.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether the decision of the Priority Officer will be based on local requirements ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Of course, he will consult local people ; he will go round from place to place and satisfy himself as to the relative importance of the various roads, and the respective area that they will serve.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Will the recommendation of the Priority Officer have any effect with the Chief Engineer ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That goes without saying.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : How does the member propose to spend the Rs. 7,000 that he now asks for ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads Buildings and Irrigation*) : The amount is intended to cover the pay of one Executive Engeneer, one Head Clerk, two Clerks, one Head Draftsman, two Tracers, one Typist, four peons, their T. A., and contingencies.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chiryinkil II*) : What, approximately, is the time that may be required for the preparation of the priority list ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Six months.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Will the list include existing roads also ?

MR G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : No, it will include only new roads.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : Will this list affect the completion of incomplete roads ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : No.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Should the roads the necessity for which may arise only hereafter, however important or urgent they may be, wait for the completion of all the roads in the priority list?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No. This list will be somewhat flexible; but, as I said, there must be very good reason for introducing any new road in between two roads already in the list.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Is it the opinion of the Chief Engineer—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I cannot allow any question about the opinion of the Chief Engineer.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I take it that the roads that are now to be arranged according to their importance are presumably of greater importance than roads that may be thought of hereafter?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): There are numerous roads which have been asked for by the people; and we want to arrange them according to their importance so that, as and when my friend here (*referring to the Financial Secretary*) gives me money, I can take them up one after another in the order given in the list.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is there not a risk of the more urgent roads, according to the opinion of this Priority Officer, being confined to any particular locality in the State?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): The Chief Engineer too has got a say on the matter.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will there be any appellate authority over the decision of the Priority Officer?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I cannot allow that question. That is a matter very well known to the member himself.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I shall make myself clear, Sir I should like to know whether the Chief Engineer has got any power to revise the priority order made by the Priority Officer.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must rule out the question; because, it is settled law that no point of law can be put to a member. The jurisdiction of the Chief Engineer is a question of law.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In that case, may I know whether, if anybody questions the order of priority given by the Priority Officer, the Chief Engineer will be able to judge for himself and decide the dispute?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I have already stated, Sir, that the recommendations of this Officer will be scrutinised by the Chief Engineer.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Would it not be better if the Chief Engineer himself goes about and finds for himself as to which roads are more urgent?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): The House can take it from me that the list will be carefully scrutinised by me before it goes up to Government.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : On a point of order, Sir. The Chief Engineer seems to have resumed his seat ; and he has yet to move for the third item of his Demand.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It certainly lies within the power of the Chair to give as much time as it thinks proper. But, members ought to put forth all their points and develop their case within a reasonable time. I am not casting any aspersion on the official member in the present instance. Perhaps, he was obliged to answer more questions than he anticipated. Anyhow, the demands of time must be respected. If, as a special case, the Chief Engineer wants the indulgence of the Chair, I am prepared to allow it ; and he may place the third item of his demand also.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I am prepared to answer any further questions, Sir, about the roads.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Does the amount now asked for include the T. A. of the officer ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Yes, Sir, I have already said that.

I also request the House to grant me another small sum of Rs. 450 for an additional Draftsman for my office. I have been pressing for some time past for the strengthening of the drawing branch of my office. Last year, the Government kindly sanctioned an additional Draftsman, on Rs. 40-70, for my office ; but the expenditure was ordered to be met from the general savings.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : How many Draftsman are there in the Chief Engineer's Office ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Eight or nine ; I am not quite sure. But, I can guarantee that all of them are working hard.

Sir, provision for the additional Draftsman now asked for, ought to have been made in Part 1 of the Budget for the current year ; but unfortunately, due to an over-sight it was not done. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction this small sum of Rs. 450 for that purpose.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the nature of the work done by these Draftsmen ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Draftsmen's work.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : What are they drafting ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I disallow the question, since a member of this House is expected to know what the work of a Draftsman in the Chief Engineer's Office is.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Does the Department get down designs, for works, from outside Draftsmen also ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : What are the designs that the honourable member is referring to ?

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In regard to the new Council Chamber to be constructed, did the Department get down the design from an outside Draftsman ?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Is the question relevant, Sir ? The Demand is for Rs. 450 for an additional Draftsman for the Chief Engineer's Office. Mr. S. J. Nair is puttting a question as to whether any outsider has put in a tender for a particular design.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : My friend has not understood my question, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. S. J. Nair's question, both as he put it and as it has been understood by Mr. Elenkath, is perfectly relevant.

MR. G. B. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Sir, we have a design for the Council Chamber, from an Architect. An Archetect is totally different from a Draftsman ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Was not the design for the Vamanapuram Bridge also got down from outside ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No, it was designed in my office, under my supervision.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The design for the Neendakara Bridge ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : All that is past history. You need not answer that question, Mr. Truscott.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I do not think it is necessary for me to add anything more to what I have already stated. I have convinced the Government about the necessity for an additional Draftsman for my office.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : This House is not concerned with what transpired between you and the Government. You have to convince this House.

MR. G. B. E TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : There is absolute necessity for an additional Draftsman for my office. As I said, it wes not included in the Budget on account of oversight. It is only a matter of Rs. 450

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) I support items 1 and 3 of the Demand. I have not yet made up my mind about item No. 2. There is just one doubt that I want the Chief Engineer to clear.

Sir, I put a question to the Chief Engineer, whether the priority list would affect the completion of the roads now under construction and incomplete He replied that such roads would not be affected by priority list. But, recently, with regard to the Piravam—Mamala road, for which there is provision in the Budget for the current year, I wrote to the Executive Engineer, Alwaye, asking whether that road would be taken up soon. He wrote back to me that, until the priority list is prepared and approved of by Government, the work would not be taken up. If this information is correct, I would request the Chief Engineer to give proper instructions to the Executive Engineer Alwaye, to take up the work immediately so that the funds allotte this year may not lapse like last years' allotment.

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): May I know whether any amount was spent for that road?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All those points do not arise, because this grant does not concern itself with anything sanctioned in the past.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): That is only an illustration of the contradictory statement given by the Chief Engineer.

In preparing the priority list, I request the Chief Engineer to bear two facts in mind, *viz.*, to give priority to the roads in rural parts and also to complete all the existing roads that are unfinished.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): After having opposed the second item, is the member in order in asking the Chief Engineer to bear certain facts in mind in regard to the priority list?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): I have not opposed the second item.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does the member support the second item?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): I support the items Nos. 1 and 3; and, if the Chief Engineer undertakes that the rural needs will be first attended to in the preparation of the priority list and that incomplete roads will first be taken up, I am prepared to support the second item.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that it is in order to defeat the rural needs that this demand is brought up?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): I am not at all aware.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I expect Mr. S. J. Nair to express regret for that question at least by conduct. That is not the way for asking questions in this House. That certainly is not a proper thing to do and it is not fair either to the Government or to this House or to the Chair. The Chair certainly cannot be expected to tolerate this kind of thing.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, I would like to know whether the member's objection is in order in view of the assurance given that incomplete roads will not be affected at all by the preparation of the priority list.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: After all, it is not very relevant; but it cannot be said that it is irrelevant.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I support itemNo, 1 and oppose items Nos. 2 and 3. Sir, when we were discussing the report of the Public Accounts Committee, certain members said that, when departmental heads bring forward a demand for supplementary grant, it is the duty of this House to go into the necessities of that demand very carefully.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Even irrespective of that, this House has got the right to do so.

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MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): So, Sir, we have to scrutinise the necessities of the demand brought forward by departmental heads. Sir, there are roads for the construction of which investigations have been made, estimates have been prepared and sanction of Government has been obtained. There are also roads the construction of which has already been taken up and which have been left partly finished. But for the extreme necessity of these roads, the Government or the Engineering Department would not have made investigations, prepared estimates and got the sanction of Government for their construction. So, in regard to these, there is no necessity for the preparation of a priority list. Even if the Government or the Chief Engineer thinks that there is necessity for a priority list, the Chief Engineer can very well ask the Division Officers to prepare a list of very urgently needed roads and send it on to him. As Mr. Sivatanu Pillai suggested, the Chief Engineer can act as an appellate authority. He can verify the list and, if necessary, cut down the names of certain roads which do not require priority.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know how the Chief Engineer can decide the priority as between roads belonging to different divisions?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is entirely a hypothetical question.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): No, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): A word of personal explanation. It seems to me that the appointment of a particular officer is insisted on in order that one individual can decide which is the road which deserves priority after travelling throughout the whole State. If different persons are to enquire into the question of priority, each in his own division, then they may be able to decide the priority of roads in their respective divisions; but as between one division and another how can the Chief Engineer decide the priority?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is what is known as discretion. So the question is disallowed.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): So the priority list which is sought to be prepared can be obtained in a week's time if the Chief Engineer is particular about it.

In this connection, I may also say that the preparation of the priority list may be a device to postpone the construction of these village roads.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it not very unfair?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I can change the wording.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please yourself.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, in every session of the Assembly, almost all the non-official members demand for certain roads. When such instances occur in the future, the Chief Engineer on behalf of Government, will say that he has ordered a priority list to be prepared and Government can consider the question only after the priority list is prepared. (Mr. S. J. Nair: *Hear, hear.*)

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Did you not—

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Can the member address the question directly to another member ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : He put the question through me.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*) : Did not the member hear me answer Mr. Thanu Pillai just now saying that this list would be flexible ?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I did not understand what the Chief Engineer said.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Chief Engineer has got the right to ask a question but he has no duty to make any particular member understand his question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Otherwise there is no meaning in his question. I would like to hear him again.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I am unwilling to make the Chief Engineer repeat questions a number of times.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : May I repeat the question, Sir ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Yes.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*) : I ask the member whether, in reply to Mr. Thanu Pillai's question, I did not say that the priority list would be flexible.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : I oppose this demand for the reason that, if now the non-officials approach the Chief Engineer and request him for roads saying that such a road is necessary and that he should attend to them, most probably the Chief Engineer may accede to the demand, but when the priority list is prepared, he can very well say" I cannot accede to your request because there is a priority list." So, Sir, I may submit that roads which are of urgent necessity may be postponed. On these grounds, I oppose the demand relating to item No. 2.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : With respect to this demand, I am sceptical about the second item, that it is about the priority list. Probably I have not understood the Chief Engineer when he explained that portion of the demand. But from what he said, I gathered that the list would relate to roads not now in existence but only to roads to be made hereafter and with respect to such future roads the priority would be decided by an Executive Engineer who, accompanied by his staff, will go about perambulating and ascertaining local opinion. That is what I gathered.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Local non-official opinion ?

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): The Chief Engineer said, to collect opinion locally. But the first difficulty that sugges s itself to me is in regard to the locale of a non-existent road. It is rather psychological and the Executive Engineer and local opinion in different centres would hardly agree. What this Executive Engineer would be doing, if I imagine his proceedings correctly, will be to go about from place to place and to meet certain people, who may come in his way.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Does the member know that there are many applications for roads?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): That is a different matter. Are the applications to be investigated or are the intrinsic need and urgency of the roads to be considered? The roads yet to be brought into existence are the roads to be considered in the priority list; and even if there is some material for the Executive Engineer to consult local opinion, the local opinion of one place will be quite different from the local opinion of another place. How to arrive at a common ground for comparing and testing the importance or the urgency of a particular road, is the problem.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Are not the roads already in a priority list?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I do not know. There may be some sort of a list, but it may be out of date and of no use. Is any such list going to be made the basis for the purpose of grading priority? The Executive Engineer's fiat is to be guided by irreconcilable local opinions. Take the instance of Mr. S. J. Nair, who has been hammering on roads in his own constituency. The Executive Engineer goes to Vamanapuram and asks whether a road is required there. Certainly the people of the locality will say, yes. Other people would show the same amount of insistence on roads for themselves. So I ask whether there is any possibility of comparing the urgency and importance of future roads.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will not a comparison be possible in consideration of the urgency?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Urgency will be one test. Local necessity will be another. For instance, if there is a hospital intended to serve people living 5 and 6 miles away, and no road leading to the hospital, then a road will be a necessity.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In such cases, priority does not arise?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): What is to be the basis of priority is not clear. Consulting local opinion is a paltry test. After all, that would be at best a process of expert enquiry. Further, Sir, the list when prepared must be open to the inspection of the representatives of this House. For the agitation for the roads is keenest in this House. The Chief Engineer has nothing to say with respect to that. If this House also gets a voice in the matter, then the

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai]

Chief Engineer will be able to decide between road and road as regards the comparative urgency. It does not appeal to me that we should spend Rs. 7,000 on a Special Officer to draw up a report, which would hardly satisfy any. I would also suggest that, in spite of all the clamour about roads, there is the question of canals and rivers in my constituency. The Chief Engineer has nothing to say with respect to that. I fail to understand why they should be ignored in the scramble for roads. On the whole, I remain sceptical about the profitableness and the practicability of the proposed list.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I have very great pleasure in supporting the first portion of the Chief Engineer's demand; but I regret that I have to oppose parts 2 and 3 of that demand.

It appears to me that the proposal for the appointment of an Executive Engineer and staff for making a priority list of roads is a fantastic one. In the first place, the officer who is going to be appointed for this purpose will not have the necessary local knowledge in all the taluks of the State. He will have to travel from one end of the country to the other. He is supposed to consult local opinion. There will be half-a-dozen competing claims or more in each taluk. One non-official gentleman will say that one road is important; another will say that another is important; and the officer will not have the adequate individual knowledge of local conditions to determine the relative importance of the several roads.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Is not there a representative of that taluk?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): The representatives of every taluk are available in both the Houses. They could be easily consulted.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will they agree with each other in respect of a particular road?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I am coming to that.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Is the member of the view that the opinions of the representatives are not correct?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): If the member will hear me till the end, he will find that there is no ground for the appointment of the special officer. My suggestion is that the various Executive Engineers may be requested to make the priority lists after consulting non-official gentlemen of the locality. Such lists will go to the Chief Engineer who will hold a conference with the members of the Legislature and make out a final list. That is one procedure. The Chief Engineer was stating that the Special Officer was going to make out a priority list of roads for all time to come. I ask what is the purpose of making out such a list. When the necessary funds will not be

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available in this period of economic depression, the list will be useless. We have not got money even to finish the incomplete roads. In these circumstances, the first duty of the Department is to complete the incomplete roads and then take up other roads according to the priority list which has to be prepared by the Executive Engineers in the first instance and then verified and made final by the Chief Engineer in consultation with the non-official members of the Legislature. So I think that this portion of the demand deserves to be opposed.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is it the member's opinion that no new road should be started until all the incomplete roads are completed ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I do not say that. We must cut our coat according to our cloth. To the extent that funds become available, we must construct new roads.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): What about Shertala and other places which have not got their due share of roads ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): They must certainly get them.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Is it possible to construct new roads in those places without this priority list ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): What has this officer to do with such roads ?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting item I of the demand. At the last meeting of the Assembly an adjournment motion was discussed urging the necessity for affording improved facilities for the shipment of goods at the Port of Alleppey. The Chief Engineer has responded promptly to the wishes of the House, and has come forward with a demand for the purchase of a dredger. I heartily congralulate him.

With regard to items 2 and 3, I beg to state that I cannot support those items. It is obvious that items 2 and 3 do not satisfy the technical requirements of asking for a supplementary grant. Of course, the Chief Engineer was remarking that about 90 per cent. of the interpellations tabled in this House relate to roads. So it cannot be said to be a new matter of an urgent and unavoidable nature which came up all on a sudden. He has also been telling us that he sent up an estimate for the appointment of a Special Officer during the last budget, but unfortunately it was not included in the Budget. Evidently it has to be presumed that the Finance Committee did not accept it.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Why should he presume that the Finance Committee did not accept it ? It never went before the Finance Committee. It happened to be left out of the Budget.

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MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): In regard to item 3 also, the same technical objection holds good. The appointment of a draftsman in his office cannot be said to be an unavoidable necessity. The Chief Engineer can wait till the next Budget.

So far as item 2 is concerned, my doubt is whether there should be a Special Officer for that purpose. We have got a high-paid Chief Engineer and he has got an army of officers under him – Division Officers, Sub-Division Officers and Section Officers. If this army of officers is not fully conversant with the localities and their needs, I wonder what is the good of maintaining such a big department as this? Recently, we understand that the designation of the Chief Engineer himself has been changed. He was formerly called "Chief Engineer, Public Works Department". Now he is called "Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation". So much so he is considered to be a specialist in roads. Under such circumstances, I think a Special Officer is absolutely useless. On these grounds, I oppose items 2 and 3 and support item 1.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish we are able to get through this item at least today. I am prepared to go on for some little time more after 5 P. M.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I wish to congratulate the Chief Engineer for the most uncanny way in which he has brought forward his demand. The first item is under the dreadful name of a dredger. The second is brought forward on the score of priority and the third is on the strength of guarantee in the spirit of a jolly good fellow.

Dredger is a useful one and even in the last Council the purchase of that plant was very much appreciated and approved by the non-official members. As a matter of fact, if I remember right, it was Mr. K. C. Karunakaran in particular who spoke about the usefulness of it. I do not know whether the sum allotted for the first item includes the sum necessary for a boat-basin also. I have no objection for that item.

As regards the second item, I have my own doubts whether such an omnipotent and omniscient officer as the priority Engineer is necessary at all for determining the priority of roads and whether there is any appellate authority on the matter. Further even if there is such an officer, the Chief Engineer too will have on occasions, to inspect the roads and understand the relative importance of these roads. That is duplicating the work of inspection. To my mind, that item is unnecessary and I strongly oppose it.

Coming to the third item, the Chief Engineer himself said that there are about 9 draftsmen in his office who are doing the work very efficiently and have enough work. If this is the 10th man that is now asked for, I think the Chief Engineer who is the best authority to judge in the matter, should be given that hand. I will appeal to the charity and good sense of the House to rely upon the guarantee given by a responsible officer like the Chief Engineer in regard to this item.

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After all it is only an expenditure of Rs. 450. For these reasons, I would urge the Chief Engineer to withdraw the second item in the demand and be content with the rest of the items.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Sir, I support the demand brought forward by the Chief Engineer in its entirety. With regard to item No. 2, I wish to say a word.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Does the member support the appointment of a separate Road Engineer?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Yes.

The idea of preparing a priority list of roads is indeed a commendable one. For, the public can rest assured that the roads in the priority list will be taken up for execution one day or other. We are under the impression that the roads that we consider as important may or may not find a place in the list. If a list of the kind suggested by the Chief Engineer is to be prepared' that will give a consolation to the public that that road will be taken up for execution one day or other.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What about people of certain localities who are not to be served by such roads? Will it be a consolation to them?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): How can that be?

In my opinion priority list of roads will prove itself to be a valuable document which may be indented upon by the public for purposes of representation regarding the construction of roads.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Will not that be a flexible list as announced by the Chief Engineer?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Yes. That is what the Chief Engineer said. But this is a matter which could not be solely entrusted to an officer of the P. W. Department; the public must have a voice in the preparation of the list. The accredited representatives of the public should be consulted.

A similar list was prepared during the time of the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly at a conference of the representatives of the people as well as the P. W. D. and Revenue Officers.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): What became of that list?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): That was not acted upon in full. Many of the roads were not taken up at all. Even such an important road as the Kartikapalli—Kayancolam road even today remains unattended to.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Was it not due to the objection raised by those who are not served by that road?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): No. It was for a different reason.

I support the demand.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, at the outset I have to congratulate the Chief Engineer and in doing so I have to observe that our Chief Engineer is a very clever draftsman in the sense.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think that is very much like patronising a very senior officer of the Government.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I will say that he is a very able draftsman not in the sense of one who draws up thousands of estimates, nor in the sense of one who draws things called bills for the legislative anvil but in the sense of one who draws up money bills in the shape of supplementary demands and he puts items in such a clever way that we are taken unawares.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I object to that.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I meant money bills not in the technical sense in which it is used. It is only in the sense of coming forward for supplementary grants. I was only referring to the way in which various items were placed in the supplementary demand, and especially the uncanny way in which is introduced the most objectionable item, namely, the demand for Rs. 7,000 for drawing up a priority list of roads. I am surprised to see that objectionable item sandwiched in between two very important items. Probably the Chief Engineer thought that by placing these items in this manner, that objectionable item too will receive the sanction of this House.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it not a reflection on this House to say that this House was taken unawares by the second item, though it comes between the useful items. Please do not make such statements.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I ask, is it not an emphatic way of saying that he is objecting to the second item?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Yes, Sir.

I support items 1 and 3 and oppose item 2 which is not practicable and as the Chief Engineer himself stated that it will be only a flexible list. If that is so, where is the necessity for appointing a special officer? Even now there exists a list of roads.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Will it satisfy the member if the list is placed before the Assembly for approval?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): If the Government mean business, in regard to the preparation of a priority list of roads, I would suggest the appointment of a Standing Committee of the Legislature which, I think, is the proper workable body, on roads. I do not suggest the formation of Road Boards at all. Therefore, I support items 1 and 3 of the demand and oppose item 2 very strongly.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): I support Items 1 and 3 but oppose item no 2. I cannot understand why this demand for Rs. 7,000 is made. If a list is going to cost us Rs. 7,000, I cannot conceive how much the roads and bridges under contemplation will cost us. Moreover the best means of ascertaining the relative importance of the roads is by a reference to the representatives of the people assembled

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here who are the parties most competent to speak on the matter instead of leaving it to the whims and fancies of any Special Officer and staff.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I am glad that the majority of members of the House has agreed to proposals 1 and 3 of the demand.

As regards the suggestion of the Alwaye member, I shall investigate the matter and see how far it is workable.

One member seems to have said that I have come with a funny idea. It is a serious proposition and is what is at present being done in Madras.

Mr. Kuriakose spoke about the road in Mamala. I do not understand the reply he got from the Executive Engineer. I will take up that question separately. At any rate, my point is that an incomplete road has priority over any new road.

Mr. Nilakanta Pillai spoke about estimates being prepared and sanctioned. We take a lot of time in that connection and that is the very thing that I pointed out to him. The labour and expense involved in the preparation of estimates cannot be questioned at all. If one estimate is found to be insufficient, a fresh estimate is prepared and sent for the sanction of Government.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): In regard to the preparation of estimates, may I know, whether they are prepared after finding out funds?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): If the member could suggest a way for that, that will be looked into.

There is a list of roads, as prepared by the Road Board, in the Chief Engineer's Office. I may inform the members that it was never a priority list at all, except that each member appeared to consider that his road was the most important and should be constructed first. I propose to hand over the list to the officer who is going to be appointed to determine the priority of roads. He will state his reasons why such and such a road should be preferred to another.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether the staff is to be appointed temporarily?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes, temporarily for six months.

Some honourable members spoke that it is a new idea. This is nothing of the sort. It has been done already in Madras. Mr. Vipan, who was the Chief Engineer here, is the officer deputed for that work.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the conditions in Madras and Travancore are the same?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No, they are slightly different.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Has he to deal with long roads or trunk roads also ?

MR. G. B. E TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I had an opportunity to talk with him last time. He deals with all roads.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): The Chief Engineer said.—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not a question. Unless you put the question I am not prepared to allow.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): With reference to the statement that there are already proposals sanctioning an amount of about Rs. 2 lakhs, I wish to know from the Chief Engineer whether they would be included in the priority list or not ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*: Certainly.

Items Nos. 2 and 3 are as much important as the other item.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I propose to put this demand to the vote of the House.

Item No. 1 (the purchase of a dredger for the Alleppey Port at a cost of Rs. 1,10,000) was put to the vote of the House and carried.

Item No. 2 (the appointment of a special staff for the preparation of a priority list of roads Rs. 7,000) was put to the vote of the House and lost.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows:—

FOR—19.

1 Mr. V. T. Chacko
2 " C. V. Chandrasekharan
3 " K. George
4 " M. Govinda Pillai
5 " R. Nilakanta Pillai
6 " M. K. Janardana Kamath
7 " N. John Joseph
8 " T. C. Joseph
9 Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
10 Mr. K. M. Kurlakose
11 Mr. C. O. Madhavan
12 " N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
13 " Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
14 " R. Pitchu Aiyangar
15 " V. Ramakrishna Panickar
16 " T. C. Thommen
17 " John Whitely Tolson
18 " G. B. E. Truscott
19 " N. E. Varughese

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AGAINST—33.

1	Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	18	Mr. P. C. Narayanan Battatiripad
2	" K. C. Abraham	19	" K. A. Narayana Pillai
3	" T. K. Alexander	20	" Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
4	" A. S. Damodaran Asan	21	" P. K. Narayana Pillai
5	" M. Mahomed Haneef	22	" G. Nilakantan
6	" S. J. Nair	23	" S. Nilakanta Pillai
7	" T. S. Jayantan Nambootiri	24	" Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
8	" N. Kesava Panickar	25	" Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
9	" K. M. Krishnan	26	Rao Sahib S. Paramervara Aiyar
10	" K. P. Krishna Menon	27	Mr. K. Sankaran
11	" Pottaiyl S. Krishna Panickar	28	" R. Sivaraman Nair
12	" N. K. Krishna Pillai	29	" M. Sivatanu Pillai
13	" T. Krishna Pillai	30	" A. Thanu Pillai
14	" K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	31	" S. Thiraviam Nadar
15	" E. K. Kunjuraman	32	" V. K. Vellappan Nair
16	" P. C. Kuriyan	33	" T. P. Velayudhan Pillai
17	" K. Mahomed		

NEUTRALS—4

1	Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kallklam II*)	3	Mr. Antony George
2	" K. R. Elenkath	4	„ M. K. Madhavan Pillai

Item No. 3 (the appointment of an additional draftsman in the Chief Engineer's Office (Rs. 450) was put to the vote of the House and carried.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We shall now adjourn to meet again tomorrow at 11 O' clock as usual.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-7 p. m.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assemby.

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